

Keith King: Today is Friday, July 24, 2020. The time is 12:36 p.m., calling Cathy.

Cathy Kautz: Hello.

Keith King: Hi, is this Cathy?

Cathy Kautz: Yes.

Keith King: Hi, Cathy. My name's Keith King. I left you a message late last night. How are you?

Cathy Kautz: I'm fine, thanks.

Keith King: We don't know each other, I'm an investigator. I'm a private investigator east of Cleveland. Here's the reason why I'm calling, it has to do with Drake Bell. Have you heard anything about any allegations?

Cathy Kautz: Uh-uh (negative), no, not at all.

Keith King: Okay. I'm retired law enforcement, I'm not the police. I was engaged by a firm here in Cleveland and apparently there's a **CHILD** **CHILD**, someone who you know, I believe and-

Cathy Kautz: Yes, I do. Yes, I know her.

Keith King: A friend and she's a big fan I think of Drake's, right?

Cathy Kautz: Right, right, right.

Keith King: There was some suggestion of potentially inappropriate contact that occurred at or around a venue in Cleveland. When I was looking through this and everything else, I know you do a lot of postings for Drake and you send him pictures, things of that nature.

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, I'm a friend of his mother's.

Keith King: Correct, yeah, correct.

Cathy Kautz: I know him. I'm a freelance photographer, a lot of times I'll photograph his show for him and so forth.

Keith King: He shared that. We've met him a couple times from Los Angeles, he's been here in Cleveland. He's had nothing but great things to say. You communicate with him well and you're friends with his mom. But apparently **CHILD** has made some suggestion that there was some inappropriate contact at a venue and it was at the Aloft Hotel. Of course, he's denying this, I'll just share this with you,

I'm totally transparent here. But it had to do when there was a signing of a birthday card. Her Aunt **CHILD** -

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, I know what you're talking about.

Keith King: She was there and the venue was at the Odeon, I believe.

Cathy Kautz: Yes, I was there.

Keith King: Let me just look at this real quick, the date. The date was Friday, December 1, 2017, was at the Odeon.

Cathy Kautz: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-.

Keith King: **CHILD** was 15 at the time, I believe.

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, I believe she would have been, 15 or 16.

Keith King: That very next day, which would have been Saturday morning, December 2nd, you guys went to his hotel room. Do you remember that, at the Aloft?

Cathy Kautz: I know you're saying it's Aloft, but I personally didn't go. A friend of mine came with me and she had some medical issues, she was tired so we said our goodbyes right there and just didn't bother to go to his hotel. But I know **CHILD** and her aunt and another friend of mine named Darlene, she went and chatted with him for a while and so forth.

Keith King: Got to see him and sign some autographs, right?

Cathy Kautz: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-, mm-hmm (affirmative)-.

Keith King: When I was looking at the postings and stuff, because it's wide open, I thought maybe that you had been present at this.

Cathy Kautz: No, like I said. I mean, I would have normally if it had just been me, but considering my friend who came with me didn't feel all that terrific, obviously I told him goodbye after the show. The next morning I had breakfast with **CHILD** and her aunt, but they had already seen him before I saw them.

Keith King: All right. That next morning, if I can talk to you about that next morning, did you guys all stay at the same location then, wherever it was?

Cathy Kautz: No, we didn't, no, no. My friend and I were at a different hotel than was **CHILD** and her aunt.

Keith King: Was there ever any discussions that **CHILD** had any privilege to go back stage or anything on December 1, for any reason before the show? Did you hear-

Cathy Kautz: Well, yeah. She did go backstage. I think I was with her at the time she was backstage. I don't really recall. I was busy too, because I was photographing the show for him. He was showing me where I could get to the stage and this and that. Then of course, I was there with my friend and I knew CHILD's aunt and stuff, so I was talking with them and stuff. I wasn't [inaudible 00:05:58] on everything he was doing, obviously. He came up and visited with us. We were put up in a little... It's not a balcony, but it's the second level. It's a large bar venue. I had called the venue and they knew I was coming. We were just seated up there. When he got there he came up and he chatted with us for a while. We just had nice chat and talked about different things and then he showed me around the venue so I could do the photographs.

Cathy Kautz: After the show, we were all backstage with him in his dressing room, but that was all of us. That was CHILD, her aunt, my two friends and me. Then there was a couple of other guys back there too, from I think the venue, or I don't know exactly who they were, but-

Keith King: That was after the show, right?

Cathy Kautz: That was after the show, right.

Keith King: All right. How about before the show? Had CHILD ever been alone with him at any chance, that you remember?

Cathy Kautz: No. I can't honestly say for sure, I really can't. I'm trying to think back and I really can't recall. I'm not saying she wasn't, but I don't recall seeing her go with him.

Keith King: How would you describe Drake Bell, as it relates to CHILD? Was he always kind, was he professional, did he ever-

Cathy Kautz: Oh, he was always kind to her. Yeah, he's very kind to her. I've been around her with him many times and I never saw anything. CHILD was very much enamored with him and that night actually, when we were up on the upper balcony talking and watching the acts that were before him, she actually looked like she was a little put out because he wasn't paying attention at all to her. He was talking to me and some other people. I could tell he sensed that. I felt that he was actually keeping a bit of a distance from her in almost a cool demeanor. I mean, not unkind, I mean, he's always kind to her. Like he's aware of the fact that she was 16, kind of feeling. I'm not the only one who felt that night. A couple of my friends were there, also said that they could tell that.

Cathy Kautz: He's always been kind to her. The first time he met her was through me and she was 12 or something. He got a kick out of her because she was just so enthralled with him and stuff. He's very good about that with fans. I mean, he's very good with his fans. He's very open with them. If somebody wants to come backstage, he's usually fine with it unless the venue's not. He's a very approachable person

and very good natured. I mean, if you spoke to him, I mean, he's a really nice, friendly guy to talk to.

Keith King: Yeah, I've met with him and I've spoke with him about a handful of things. You got the impression that he didn't want to be rude to her, but he felt that she really liked him, but he was professional and just trying to cool her off a little bit by-

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, yeah. I mean-

Keith King: He definitely was not leading her on or anything like that?

Cathy Kautz: Not in front of me, he wasn't. No, not at all. She tends to follow him around and he doesn't say go away. If he walks off she just follows behind him. He just lets her. But like I said, I've never seen anything inappropriate with him and **CHILD**. I mean, when we were up in the balcony before the show, his bands that were opening for him were playing and he was leaning on the balcony and she went over and leaned next to him and was trying to be as close as possible. He didn't do anything. He didn't put his arm around her, nothing. He didn't even actually say a whole heck of a lot to her. He said nothing rude. My impression was he doesn't want to lead her on.

Keith King: Correct, okay.

Cathy Kautz: Because he's in his 30s. I'm not saying that to defend him because he's a friend of mine, but it's the truth. That was the vibe I got, as well as a couple of my friends. I mean, they also felt the same thing. One made the comment that they thought that was good that he was doing that.

Keith King: Well, that's all that anybody [crosstalk 00:10:57]. Yeah, just interested in the truth. She's pretty possessive, she's really into Drake, is that what you-

Cathy Kautz: She was. I honestly haven't heard from her in quite a while. Geez, I don't know if it's been a year, but it's been a long time that I haven't heard from her. The one other friend I have who was at that show, she made the comment she hadn't heard about her either. She goes, "Well, maybe she's over him because it was a teenage crush or whatever." But she didn't even really know either, so I have had no contact with her, I haven't talked with her about anything, let alone him. I haven't said anything to him about her at all.

Keith King: On December 2nd, you didn't go to the hotel?

Cathy Kautz: No, no.

Keith King: Did you know anything about [crosstalk 00:11:56]. I'm sorry, did you know anything about Cathy having a birthday card that she wanted Drake to sign?

Cathy Kautz: Was that CHILD or Darlene? It wasn't me.

Keith King: I'm sorry. I meant CHILD.

Cathy Kautz: Yes, I heard something about a birthday card, but I don't know exactly. Was it for CHILD? I think it was, wasn't it? For her 16th birthday or something.

Keith King: Yeah.

Cathy Kautz: Okay. That's all I know though. I mean, just because CHILD mentioned it to me that she was going to have him sign a card. I said, "Oh, I'm sure he will, blah, blah," that's the extent of that. Forgotten about the card till you brought it up.

Keith King: Was it CHILD and CHILD that went into the hotel?

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, yeah. They were there.

Keith King: Who else went in?

Cathy Kautz: Another lady named Darlene.

Keith King: Okay. All right.

Cathy Kautz: She knows even less about anything because that was the first time she'd ever met him. She'd never even met him before that day. Actually, she said nothing but good things about the meeting. That he chatted with her and that [crosstalk 00:13:15].

Keith King: That's what I was going to ask you. When they came back-

Cathy Kautz: The next day she told me. She said, "We went over to his hotel and stuff," and I said, "Yeah." She just started gushing about him, what a nice guy he is and how much she enjoyed talking to him.

Keith King: That's Darlene, right?

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, she never mentioned anything about CHILD or CHILD. All she did was talk about how much she enjoyed chatting with him.

Keith King: Okay. Let me ask you this. Was there anything that she said about that meeting that surprised you or-

Cathy Kautz: No, nothing. Nothing.

Keith King: All right. That may be-

Cathy Kautz: She still talks to me. Like I said, she was the one who was asking me if I'd heard from **CHILD** because she hadn't either. Nothing obviously, because she just really sings Drake's praises as far as his personality, as far as a human being. She's the type that she's very blunt so I mean, if something happened that she thought was inappropriate, I would have heard about it.

Keith King: Okay. Is Darlene from the States or from Canada?

Cathy Kautz: No, she's Canadian.

Keith King: All right. I may have her information, but I'm not sure.

Cathy Kautz: That's how I introduced Drake to **CHILD**, was because Darlene has been a friend of mine for 25 years and **CHILD** is a friend of Darlene's. Like I said, five or six years ago, she contacted me and said, "A friend of mine, her niece is a big fan of Drake's and they plan on coming to this next show," that I knew I was going to be at photographing it for him. She said, "Is there anyway you can arrange for them to meet him?" That was like I said, back when she was 12 or whatever. So I did and from there, her aunt would drive her to a lot of his shows if they were within a reasonable driving distance. All in the States and of course, Toronto only being four hours from where I am, a lot of them were near me, so I was at them.

Keith King: Yeah, you do a nice job. I've seen your pictures and everything else.

Cathy Kautz: Thank you.

Keith King: You do a really nice job. It's part of my investigation and I'm looking into here for the firm in Cleveland and respectfully, I just ask that being transparent, that we can keep our conversations confidential for a period of time. If we can do that, I'd really, really appreciate it.

Cathy Kautz: I don't know how much information you can [crosstalk 00:16:18]. Is this something that **CHILD** accused him of or is something that **CHILD** was concerned about or?

Keith King: It's a great question, by the way. It appears to be something that **CHILD** had said that she did that obviously Drake has denied. I'm just going to come out and tell you, I think that with **CHILD**, she really had this crush on Drake.

Cathy Kautz: Oh yeah, yeah she did, absolutely.

Keith King: There came a point in time I think that year, that she discovered that Drake actually had a girlfriend by the name of Janet.

Cathy Kautz: Yes, he does, uh-huh (affirmative).

Keith King: [REDACTED] CHILD has been upset and she's made some statements I think to members of her family, who reached out to law enforcement and they're looking into this. That's why Drake had to contact an attorney here in Cleveland. Of course, you've heard nothing about it until I called. There's a risk of me calling you, but as I did this investigation I'm like, "Well, I figured Cathy would be transparent. I mean, she knows Drake's mom and I've spoke with Drake." You do everything you can so this accusation doesn't get out for any purpose.

Cathy Kautz: No, especially if it's not true. You don't want to harm his reputation if it's not true.

Keith King: Correct.

Cathy Kautz: But I mean, obviously, I mean, all I can do is tell you what I've seen and that's it. I've never seen anything. Like I said, if anything, I thought he was keeping a bit of an emotional distance from her. Because like I said, I noticed it and I thought, "Well, good for him." Because I thought, "I'm glad he's doing that because she is so enthralled with him." I think sometimes he shoots himself in the foot because he's so open with his fans. He acts like just a regular guy so he often is fine if fans really like him, he's fine with having come meet him in the lobby of his hotel or go to lunch with them or whatever. He's really quite open about that. Of course, when you're like that way, you run the risk.

Keith King: True, true.

Cathy Kautz: Right. Because a lot of his fans are younger. I've thought that a couple times. I thought, "I hope nothing ever backfires on him." When you're like that and these are younger girls, you are putting yourself at a little higher risk of something. Not only do I photograph his shows, but there's a couple times where he had meet and greets and I would photograph that for him. He's very affectionate as far as giving hugs, he'll say things to just totally make them feel good about themselves and he's just really down to earth with them, which I always very much admired. But that's it. I mean, I've never seen him be anything other than that.

Cathy Kautz: I've been with him with [REDACTED] CHILD, I'm trying to think. One, two, four times maybe? Four or five times and like I said, I never saw anything even remotely inappropriate and that's the truth.

Keith King: Okay. Now, are you paid for what you do?

Cathy Kautz: No, no, no. I usually do it as a favor because I'm friend with...

Keith King: You're a freelance photographer, right?

Cathy Kautz: Friends with his mother. Yeah. He never insists that I photograph, I just offer. I say, "Do you want me to do it?" It's mostly because I'm friends with his family that I do it.

Keith King: As we talk about December 1, 2017, here in Cleveland at the Odeon, there at the Cleveland Flats, before and after the concert, you were with **CHILD** and **CHILD** and Darlene, right?

Cathy Kautz: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-, right.

Keith King: **CHILD** was never alone or went backstage with Drake that you know of at least, while you were there.

Cathy Kautz: That I know of.

Keith King: All right.

Cathy Kautz: I mean, I never saw her walk off with him where it was just her and him.

Keith King: You guys were close, right? You're a group, you're a group, correct?

Cathy Kautz: Oh, yeah. We were all just a group. Like I said, we were the only ones up in that balcony. It was just us, our group. Actually, when he showed me around for photography purposes and stuff, she did follow us. I was there. He actually walked several steps in front of her. Of course, she followed him everywhere like a puppy dog. When a teenager girl has a crush, you know how that goes.

Keith King: Sure.

Cathy Kautz: No, I was with him and her at that point. That was the only other time that I know for sure that she was with him, that we weren't in the group, but I was there.

Keith King: All right, let me ask you about the next day, December 2nd. When they came back, did they come back in the same vehicle as you after they visited him, or did you guys drive separately?

Cathy Kautz: No, we were all separate, yeah.

Keith King: All right. Here's my question. When **CHILD** and **CHILD** were done visiting with Drake inside the Aloft Hotel, Saturday, the 2nd, did you meet up with them and talk about anything?

Cathy Kautz: No. What time? Do you have a time approximate that you're talking about when they met up with him at the Loft?

Keith King: No, I don't have it here in front of me. It was early, though.

Cathy Kautz: Oh, okay then. That would have been before.

Keith King: Nine, 10:00 maybe.

Cathy Kautz: Okay, okay. That's what I thought. Yeah, because like I said, we met up with them for breakfast maybe around 11:30 or something, 11:00. That's why I was asking you if it was before that.

Keith King: When you met her for breakfast, had **CHILD** already got the signed card from Drake, birthday card?

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, I believe so, yeah.

Keith King: All right. We have to reasonably assume that **CHILD** and **CHILD** had already met with Drake at the Aloft, he signed the birthday card, right?

Cathy Kautz: Right.

Keith King: Then afterwards you guys had breakfast together, correct?

Cathy Kautz: Right.

Keith King: Because that's when you learned from **CHILD** that Drake signed the birthday card for **CHILD**.

Cathy Kautz: Well, I don't know if we even talked about it then. She had told me the night before that she was going to get him to sign a card.

Keith King: Okay, you knew about it before.

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, I knew that she was going to get him to sign a card. That's all I knew. She just told me, "I have a card for **CHILD**. I'm going to have Drake sign it as a little bit of a surprise." I said, "Oh, that's nice."

Keith King: Because her birthday is January 29th, is her birthday.

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, I think it was her 16th. She thought that would be nice. Yeah, sure. That was it, I mean there was no big discussion about it. Then like I said, the next morning when we were having breakfast, it never got brought up. Of course, I think was it supposed to be a surprise for her? Which would mean that **CHILD** wouldn't bring it up in front of her.

Keith King: Correct.

Cathy Kautz: Told me how they had a nice time talking to him and all that. Like I said, Darlene and **CHILD** were both gushing about what a nice guy he is and how much they enjoyed chatting with him. **CHILD** was of course, giggly, a little bit of a high, like

teenagers get. But she didn't say much at all, actually [CHILD]. You could see the look on her face, she was glowing because she'd been able to spend time with her idol. But that's it. All that's normal.

Keith King: Yeah, okay. Makes sense.

Cathy Kautz: I mean, when I'm around Drake I see fans around him all the time and I mean that's typical. Teenagers, they're all giddy and stuff because meeting their idol. But that was it. I mean, she didn't say anything [inaudible 00:25:36] fact that she was all happy that she had spent time with him. Like I said, Darlene and [CHILD] just were talking about how nice he was. That was the first time Darlene had ever [inaudible 00:25:47] and she was going on about what a nice guy he was [crosstalk 00:25:50].

Keith King: That was the first time Darlene had ever been there?

Cathy Kautz: Had ever met Drake. Yeah, the first time Darlene had ever seen him perform or met him. [CHILD], of course, had seen him before because she was the one who would always bring [CHILD]. My friend Darlene, she lives in Canada too, so she had heard about him through me because I talked about him. Obviously, because she's the one that originally asked me if I could hook [CHILD] up to meet him. But that was the first time she ever herself got to meet him or see him perform. I mean, she even now, if anything about him is brought up, she goes on about what a nice young man he is.

Keith King: Okay. Let me draw your attention a couple more things I'm looking at here because you were at other venues. How about March 18, 2018 in Toledo?

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, I was there.

Keith King: What was that? It's a concert hall there in Toledo?

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, yeah, yep.

Keith King: All right. That was March 18th. Again, [CHILD] -

Cathy Kautz: I was there.

Keith King: Okay, you were there. Robin-

Cathy Kautz: Actually, [CHILD] and [CHILD] came to my house first and we just sat and chatted for a while They'd never been here. Then they just followed me to the venue.

Keith King: Okay. Talk to me about March at that venue.

Cathy Kautz: Well, she never was backstage with him at all. She was never alone with him at all because I had already called the venue and I had talked to the manager and

so forth. They knew I was going to be taking pictures. They were pretty strict though, because I mean, when I walked in I often don't get charged tickets, they put a wristband on me. I was texting Drake at that point, actually because he was running late. I had texted him and he said, "I'll be there in such and time," or whatever. Then he texted me, "I'm here." I went up to the person at the venue I'd been working with and I said, "He's here. He just texted me and said he's just pulled in." I start following the guy back to what do you want to call it, the stage door or whatever, where he was going to come in. The guy wouldn't even let me. I'm texting Drake right in front of him and he says, "Oh, no. You can't come back."

Keith King: So they're real strict, right? Real strict?

Cathy Kautz: It was stupid really, to be honest with you. But he wouldn't let me come back. I never even went backstage at that venue. Drake was running late, he didn't feel well. Rested in his hotel as long as he could, then got there, performed. CHILD, she was never not within my sight that night, ever. Like I said, they didn't even let me go back, let alone CHILD. Then after the show he often does a meet and greet where he signs things for people. There's this long line. I stood off to the side photographing some of it for him. CHILD was staying there by me the whole time.

Keith King: Do you remember leaving the venue?

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Keith King: Okay. You guys all left together. Did you-

Cathy Kautz: Everybody was leaving at the same time pretty much.

Keith King: Was it just that performance, March 18th?

Cathy Kautz: Yes. It was just a one night, one performance thing.

Keith King: Because I see your posts, your photographs and everything. Nobody was with Drake Bell, nobody meaning CHILD, she was never with him alone backstage or anything.

Cathy Kautz: No, no. No, she was never. She was right by me the whole time, actually.

Keith King: Drake, his demeanor, would you describe it as the same as you traditionally have seen him? Similar to-

Cathy Kautz: Yes. Oh, yeah, no. He knew she was coming but like I said, he didn't see any of us beforehand. They wouldn't let us and he just got up on stage. Of course, it was one of those things where you could stand at the foot of the stage and then there was some tables and chairs too. Obviously, I was at the foot of the stage

and by the side of the stage because I was photographing it. I let CHILD follow me so she could be right up with the stage. One point he saw her, he smiled at her, which he did to me too. Like, "Oh, hi. I'm performing," but he just acknowledges that he sees us. Then after the show he went backstage for a few minutes and we did not follow him. I mean, they would not let us. Then he came back out and we didn't even really talk to him too much, I mean, just hey, hi. It was a really long line wrapped around the place waiting in line for him to sign autographs and take pictures.

Cathy Kautz: I was standing next to him. Actually, it wasn't just me, two of his roadies were right there. I wasn't sure who the one guy was. I wasn't sure if he was with Drake or if he was with the venue. But I mean, there was standing by him while he was signing all the autographs was me, two men and CHILD. CHILD walked up kind of close a couple times, but mostly... CHILD, literally there was a table right next to where he was signing and she was literally sitting at the table the whole time he was signing autographs.

Cathy Kautz: Then afterwards, once the place cleared out, it was just basically us. We went over to the venue and talked to him for a while. Actually, he talked to me mostly. Again, it's like he's trying to bring CHILD down a little because he knows that she just wants to hover over him. He's like, "Hi," but I mean, what's funny about this to me is that when he's around her, every time I've been there, and I've been at most of them. There's a couple she's gone to that I haven't been at, but I've been at most of the same shows she has. He always comes off as a little standoffish to her. Not in a mean way, like I said, but just like, "You're 16, I'm 34," you know what I mean?

Keith King: Okay.

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, I absolutely get that sense because he knows how crazy she is about him, of course. I mean, same thing that day. He said, "Hi, CHILD," he gave her a hug and he gave all of us a hug. She just stood there next to us while mostly I talked to him. CHILD said a few things. My husband was there for part of it. He wasn't there afterwards, but he was there all the way up until the show was over. He'd tell you the same thing, that nobody was allowed backstage all the time he was there. He left because it was getting late and he had to be up early for work. He left after the show was over so he wasn't there when we were chatting with him after everybody had left.

Cathy Kautz: Most of the conversation was Drake's a Mason and he was wearing his Masonic ring and I pointed it out because my father had been a Mason and my uncle and stuff. I just said, "Oh," we chatted about that. Honest to God, CHILD and him didn't talk a lot. It was mostly me and him that talked.

Keith King: All right, so nothing else that jumps out other than what you described?

Cathy Kautz: No. No, then of course, he left with the guys he came with. I left and **CHILD** said, "Well..." Because they were driving back that night. She said, "Well, we're going to get on the road," and that was it. Everybody left.

Keith King: Let me ask you about this. That was March 18th. How about March 22nd, a few days later at the Grog Shop in Cleveland Heights?

Cathy Kautz: I wasn't there, that one I wasn't at.

Keith King: You attend the Grog Shop. I see the postings as March 21st, but everything online says the event was on the 22nd.

Cathy Kautz: My pictures were from the 18th in Toledo.

Keith King: All right.

Cathy Kautz: I didn't go to the Grog Shop.

Keith King: You did not go to the Grog Shop in Cleveland Heights?

Cathy Kautz: No, no, I did not, no. I was at the Odeon and I was in Toledo and that's it.

Keith King: Do you know if **CHILD** and **CHILD** went?

Cathy Kautz: I didn't think they did. I didn't think they did because I mean, **CHILD** was still in school. They were always conscious about her not missing too much school or anything. That's one of the reasons I think they drove back that same night in Toledo. But I didn't think she'd gone [crosstalk 00:35:24] I didn't know.

Keith King: The 18th, what day is that, if you know?

Cathy Kautz: It was a Sunday, I believe.

Keith King: All right. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Okay, March 22nd, you're right. It would have been during the week.

Cathy Kautz: Right, right, right.

Keith King: You don't believe that-

Cathy Kautz: No, that's why I didn't think she would go, because it was during the week and she's in school.

Keith King: I mean, do you know for sure or you...

Cathy Kautz: Honest, I can't say for sure, I guess because I never even talked with them about it, never even crossed my mind, to be honest with you. I mean, usually I hear

because CHILD would have told me or Darlene would say, "Oh, I heard CHILD and CHILD went and saw Drake, blah, blah." Normally I would hear about it but I can't say positively if they were there or not. But I heard nothing about them going.

Keith King: Were there any other shows that year, 2018, after March 18th that you know that-

Cathy Kautz: Actually, that's the last time I saw him, was at that show because I wasn't able to go to one I thought I was going to some months later. Then of course, I was supposed to go to one he was doing this May, but that was postponed because of COVID. That's actually the last show I've been to, was the March 18th in Toledo.

Keith King: Can you think the last time you had any communications with CHILD or CHILD?

Cathy Kautz: It's been a long time. Like I say, it's been a long time. I mean, [crosstalk 00:37:08] CHILD. Yeah, oh, yeah. I would say so, yeah. CHILD, I was on Facebook, but she never posted a lot of things about Drake on Facebook or anything like that. But she would sometimes send me private messages. A couple times she did go to shows when I wasn't, she'd send me a message telling me everything that happened. It was nothing, it was a typical fan thing. My aunt CHILD and I were backstage and he was so nice and this and that. That's the typical stuff. There was never anything she said that raised red flags for me, nothing. Like I said, she was always with CHILD at least.

Keith King: Would CHILD ever leave her, meaning CHILD, by herself with Drake for any purpose?

Cathy Kautz: I have never seen that. No, I mean, I've never seen that. Like I said, I don't know about shows that I wasn't at. But that wouldn't be my impression because every time I was at a show with them, she was right there with CHILD. Except for when I was walking around with Drake and CHILD was with us, she didn't follow. But I was there.

Keith King: All right. How would you describe CHILD as an aunt?

Cathy Kautz: I mean, I don't know her super well. I've gotten to know her because of this. But I don't know, she just seems like a nice person. She's obviously very close to CHILD. I mean, when I first met them I got it confused and I thought that CHILD was her mother. Then Darlene clarified for me that no, she's the aunt. I don't know, I mean, I thought that she obviously cares about CHILD very much. I think she enjoyed going to the shows too. I know she did. It was fun for her too, she likes Drake. To me it just looked like an aunt... Because CHILD has no children of her own, so she's doing the mother/daughter thing with CHILD, you know what I mean?

Keith King: Right.

Cathy Kautz: That was always my impression, that she just really enjoyed doing it and that her and [CHILD] were very close. I think [CHILD] had a huge thing for Rick Springfield when she was younger. I think she remembers being a teenager and what that's like. So she just enjoyed going and of course, she met Drake, she really liked him, so of course, she enjoyed seeing him herself. That was about it. I just felt that she was just doing this for [CHILD] because she remembered when she was a teenager how fun that was. That's really it.

Keith King: [CHILD] would send you private messages or messages about what her experience was?

Cathy Kautz: Occasionally, occasionally, not a lot. I think maybe twice.

Keith King: Would she ever call you on the phone, would you ever talk to her on the phone?

Cathy Kautz: No, no. No, it was always just a message on Facebook. Excuse me.

Keith King: You still have those messages, by chance?

Cathy Kautz: I would have to look. I don't know because the last one was a long time ago. I mean, she didn't send me anything after March. I mean, if I was there she didn't send me a message telling me what went on because I was there.

Keith King: Yeah, I'm just curious. Looking ahead of things and again, in confidence, I'm just looking ahead.

Cathy Kautz: I was wondering if she is not even on Facebook anymore because like I said... See, when I go to type her name in, it doesn't even come up now. Here it is, [CHILD] [CHILD]. Let me see. Yeah, there she is. Yeah, she's not even friends with me anymore. She dropped me as a friend. So I would have no idea.

Keith King: When did she drop you as a friend?

Cathy Kautz: Wait a minute, let me see. That might not be her, now that I'm looking at the pictures. Yeah, that's not her. Never mind. I just saw the name because I figured how many [CHILD] [CHILD]'s could there be, but no, that's not her. I don't even know if she's on Facebook at all anymore. Like I said, she never posted about him on her Facebook anyway. I mean, it was just she never did that. I never saw her do it. If she did something when she was younger or something maybe, because she was mostly a fan of the Drake and Josh Show.

Keith King: Right, Drake and Josh.

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, yeah. That's how she got a crush on him, because of the Drake and Josh Show. I mean, she would talk about Josh that way. Like, "Oh, I love Josh!" Like I

said, I knew she had a major crush on him and the funny thing is, like I said, my friend and I, we even talked about that. My one friend, her name is Lori, but she just knows about all this. She likes Drake and she knows about [CHILD] and her crush and everything. She even said to me, she said, "I'm sure Drake's aware how much [CHILD] likes him." I said, "Oh, yeah. He's totally aware." She said, "Well, you got to be careful with those things when you got a girl..." I said, "Absolutely." I told her how he was... I hate using the word standoffish, because that makes it sound like he's not nice to [CHILD]. That's not what I mean.

Cathy Kautz: I mean he hugged her when she first walked in. He hugged all of us. But he didn't put his arm around her, he didn't do anything. He didn't even touch her after hugging her. She stood next to him and all that and that was fine. I told her that, she said, "Oh, good for him." My impression was always that he was fully aware that he has to be careful with these things and I always admired him for that because I thought, "Yeah, good for you." I always felt he was walking the line really well because like I said, if he knows he's got some really diehard fan, he likes to interact with them and do things for them. Let them come backstage, that kind of thing. But then he comes off like I said, where he's like, "Okay, but keep your distance," in a way. I ways thought good for him that he's walking that line where he's still letting the fans have a lot of access to him without crossing any lines. I always thought that about him.

Cathy Kautz: But that's why I'm a little surprised because never heard anything. I never heard anything from [CHILD], [CHILD], nothing. Other than praise for him. Never heard anything. Like I said, Darlene is the type that she's very blunt. If she thought he did something inappropriate, she'd be calling it out in a heartbeat and she'd have been telling me. Because she was with them when they went to the Loft.

Keith King: To the Aloft?

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, Darlene was with them. I mean, I know she went with them. I mean, Darlene has a picture of her and him that was taken in the hallway of the place or whatever. She told me that they had chatted for a long time. One thing they chatted about was fans and she was very impressed with his opinion about fans, about letting them have some access to him and stuff. Realizing he needs to be good to them because they're basically his employers. She was very impressed with his attitude. She thought, "Well, good for him that he realizes where his money comes from." Some celebrities, they treat fans like crap and without the fans they wouldn't be a celebrity.

Keith King: Darlene's a close friend of yours, right?

Cathy Kautz: Yeah. Darlene's a close friend of mine. [CHILD] is not a close friend. I mean, like I said, I know her through Darlene.

Keith King: Darlene, she's Canadian also?

Cathy Kautz: Yes.

Keith King: Okay. This photograph at the Aloft, is it just her, is it a selfie of all of them, do you know?

Cathy Kautz: No, it's her and Drake. I don't know who she had take the picture, probably **CHILD**. I think they're in a hallway of the hotel or whatever. Yeah, no, it's your typical picture of-

Keith King: Darlene never shared anything with you that anything crazy or inappropriate occurred at the-

Cathy Kautz: No. No, she spoke only highly of the whole thing.

Keith King: Okay. If I need to, I would ask you first, I might want to reach out to Darlene. Do you think that that would be a problem?

Cathy Kautz: I don't know.

Keith King: What are your thoughts? I mean, I'm interested in your thoughts.

Cathy Kautz: I don't know. I mean, I'm sure she'd talk to you. I think she'd be surprised because like I said, she said nothing but positive experiences.

Keith King: Do you talk to her often?

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, pretty much. I mean, we text or send a message to each other a couple times a week. We're pretty much consistently in contact, yeah.

Keith King: All right. Because it might be really important. I'm just going to share with you, that may be very, very important.

Cathy Kautz: Because she was there?

Keith King: Yeah, yeah. I'm paraphrasing. For example, if **CHILD** said, "Aunt **CHILD**, I want to go in and just speak with Drake by himself," and **CHILD** goes in and the door shuts and they're behind closed a door in his hotel room for three minutes. Isn't that something that Darlene would question or be concerned about if something like that occurred?

Cathy Kautz: Probably. I don't really know how much that would concern her. I don't know.

Keith King: I'm not saying that they were, but I'm just trying to think of something that would be odd or suspicious.

Cathy Kautz: If it was clearly out of place [inaudible 00:48:02], she'd absolutely notice it and I'd probably been the first person she would have told. I mean, I don't know

exactly. I mean, every little thing that happened when they were with him. I just know what they visited with him and they chatted with him and took a couple pictures. **CHILD** had the card signed and that's really all I know. Then I met them for breakfast and they were just talking about how nice he was and what a nice time they had hanging out with him. That was really about it.

Keith King: We'll leave it at that between the two of us for right now. Fair enough?

Cathy Kautz: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Keith King: Okay. I'm sure you have a ton of questions for me.

Cathy Kautz: Well, it was a bit of a shock, a bit out of left field here. Like, "Whoa!"

Keith King: Here's what I'll tell you. Drake has denied that he did anything-

Cathy Kautz: Inappropriate?

Keith King: Yeah. To at least any level that is being looked into. Obviously, this is a very, very sensitive topic and there's a risk for me reaching out to you. But as I looked at this whole thing and I talked with people, I'm like, "I think I need to give Cathy a call in Toledo." Now, I'm east of Cleveland-

Cathy Kautz: My husband works in Cleveland, actually.

Keith King: Oh, does he?

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, yeah. He comes home some nights, some nights he's there. He works the Fifth Third building downtown. He's the chief engineer of the whole building.

Keith King: Wow! That's a big building too. It's the biggest building.

Cathy Kautz: Well, actually, it's not even that. There's another building. I don't know if it's right next to it or it's across the street, that's smaller. I think it's two stories or something, but he actually is part of that too. Yeah, he's good at that. He used to be chief engineer for the tallest building in downtown Toledo.

Keith King: Wow, okay. Hey, can I give you my number? Did my number pop up there?

Cathy Kautz: Yes, it did.

Keith King: All right. In confidence, if you can keep that. Again, my name is Keith King. You have not had any contact or communications at all with **CHILD**?

Cathy Kautz: Not for quite a while, no.

Keith King: Okay. Just so you know, I've spoken to nobody else about this, including Drake's mother.

Cathy Kautz: Okay.

Keith King: We don't want to set off-

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, I won't mention anything to Robin at this point. I don't want to-

Keith King: Yeah, please.

Cathy Kautz: No. I mean, I wouldn't want to do that just because I know she'd be upset and worried.

Keith King: I promise you that I will call you with any updates.

Cathy Kautz: I appreciate that.

Keith King: Because Drake Bell and his camp, including Janet, have spoken highly of you and have been extremely grateful for everything that you've done during the course of his tours and his postings.

Cathy Kautz: I think I knew that, but it's nice to hear it. Like I said, I mean, I've always had a good relationship with him and I've always thought very highly of him. He's not a perfect human being, but nothing like this. I have never seen anything that I thought was inappropriate and that's the God's truth.

Keith King: Well, fair enough. I'm going to run off to something else. It's almost 2:00. What is it, about maybe 1:30? Yeah, it's about 1:30.

Cathy Kautz: Yeah, it's 1:30.

Keith King: I don't have anything else at this point. Thanks for chatting with me and I'll be in touch.

Cathy Kautz: Okay. Well, thank you.

Keith King: Bye, Cathy.

Cathy Kautz: Bye-bye.

Redaction Log

Total Number of Redactions in Document: 109

Redaction Reasons by Page

Page	Reason	Description	Occurrences
1	CHILD AB/NEG INFO	Identifying information of the child abuse/neglect victim(s) and the reporter(s) of the abuse/neglect; and the child abuse/neglect initial abuse report; have been redacted pursuant to O.R.C. 2151.421(I)(1) and (2); and Beacon Journal v. Akron, 104 Ohio St. 3d 399, 2004-Ohio-6557.	3
2	CHILD AB/NEG INFO	Identifying information of the child abuse/neglect victim(s) and the reporter(s) of the abuse/neglect; and the child abuse/neglect initial abuse report; have been redacted pursuant to O.R.C. 2151.421(I)(1) and (2); and Beacon Journal v. Akron, 104 Ohio St. 3d 399, 2004-Ohio-6557.	6
3	CHILD AB/NEG INFO	Identifying information of the child abuse/neglect victim(s) and the reporter(s) of the abuse/neglect; and the child abuse/neglect initial abuse report; have been redacted pursuant to O.R.C. 2151.421(I)(1) and (2); and Beacon Journal v. Akron, 104 Ohio St. 3d 399, 2004-Ohio-6557.	5
4	CHILD AB/NEG INFO	Identifying information of the child abuse/neglect victim(s) and the reporter(s) of the abuse/neglect; and the child abuse/neglect initial abuse report; have been redacted pursuant to O.R.C. 2151.421(I)(1) and (2); and Beacon Journal v. Akron, 104 Ohio St. 3d 399, 2004-Ohio-6557.	1
5	CHILD AB/NEG INFO	Identifying information of the child abuse/neglect victim(s) and the reporter(s) of the abuse/neglect; and the child abuse/neglect initial abuse report; have been redacted pursuant to O.R.C. 2151.421(I)(1) and (2); and Beacon Journal v. Akron, 104 Ohio St. 3d 399, 2004-Ohio-6557.	8
6	CHILD AB/NEG INFO	Identifying information of the child abuse/neglect victim(s) and the reporter(s) of the abuse/neglect; and the child abuse/neglect initial abuse report; have been redacted pursuant to O.R.C. 2151.421(I)(1) and (2); and Beacon Journal v. Akron, 104 Ohio St. 3d 399, 2004-Ohio-6557.	7

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Redaction Log

Redaction Reasons by Exemption

Reason	Description	Pages (Count)
CHILD AB/NEG INFO	Identifying information of the child abuse/neglect victim(s) and the reporter(s) of the abuse/neglect; and the child abuse/neglect initial abuse report; have been redacted pursuant to O.R.C. 2151.421(I)(1) and (2); and Beacon Journal v. Akron, 104 Ohio St. 3d 399, 2004-Ohio-6557.	1(3) 2(6) 3(5) 4(1) 5(8) 6(7) 7(2) 8(5) 9(9) 10(8) 11(4) 12(8) 13(4) 14(19) 15(8) 16(6) 17(4) 18(2)